

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 EB-11

CIEP-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-20 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASMBV IMMEDIATE 0124

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 3197

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PO
SUBJ: REACTION TO SPINOLA SPEECH ON PORTUGUESE
TERRITORIES

REF: LISBON 3183

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE PUBLIC OVERWHELMINGLY SATISFIED
AND RELIEVED THAT COSTLY OVERSEAS WARS NOW AT END.
PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE LED REJOICING AND HAVE
CALLED FOR MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR SPINOLA
THIS EVENING IN FRONT OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. BELIEF
WIDESPREAD THAT PORTUGAL CAN NOW GET ON WITH LONG OVER-
DUE TASK OF DEVELOPING THE METROPOLE. SPINOLA'S
PERSONAL POPULARITY AT NEW HIGH AND SPEECH SEEN AS
GIVING HIM PLACE IN WORLD HISTORY A LA DE GAULLE.
END SUMMARY.

1. PORTUGUESE PUBLIC HAS REACTED TO SPINOLA SPEECH
WITH EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION AND RELIEF THAT LONG
AND COSTLY WARS NOW AT END. AT PUBLIC RALLY SCHEDULED
THIS EVENING IN FRONT OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE (SPONSORED
BY COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS, PPD, AND INTERSINDICAL)
MANY THOUSANDS, PERHAPS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, EXPECTED
TO GATHER TO VOICE THEIR JOY THAT CRUX OF OVERSEAS
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PROBLEM NOW SOLVED.

2. LEADERS OF THE PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE
EXPRESSED THEIR ELATION, GENERALLY REMARKING THAT LAST
LEGAL BARRIER TO INDEPENDENCE FOR OVERSEAS NOW REMOVED.
FONMIN SOARES TOLD PRESS THAT DEVELOPMENT OPENS "EXTRA-
ORDINARY PERSPECTIVES FOR THE NATION" AND MAKES POSSIBLE
A CLEANSING OF THE NATION'S MORAL ATMOSPHERE. HE ALSO

REMARKED THAT POSSIBILITIES NOW OPEN FOR AN END TO PORTUGUESE ISOLATION FROM REST OF WORLD. HE PREDICTED THAT PORTUGAL CAN EXPECT IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND MORAL SUPPORT AND AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. IN CONCLUSION HE REMARKED THAT SPINOLA SPEECH COMPARABLE TO SPEECH MADE BY GENERAL DE GAULLE WHEN HE ANNOUNCED END OF WAR IN ALGERIA.

3. SA CARNEIRO (PPD) SIMILARLY LAUDED SPINOLA SPEECH AS "COURAGEOUS AND LUCID." HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD DECOLONIZATION WILL BRING FURTHER SERIOUS AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WHICH NATION MUST BE READY TO FACE COMPETENTLY AND SERENELY. HE SAID FUTURE TIES WITH OVERSEAS SHOULD NOT BE NEO-COLONIALIST BUT RATHER BASED ON MUTUAL INTEREST AND COMMON CULTURAL BONDS. COMMUNIST PARTY LABELED SPINOLA DECISION "PROFOUNDLY PATRIOTIC" AND OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE. IT TOO WARNED THAT, WHILE WAR IS OVER, DEFINITIVE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEM WILL BE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX. IN SHORT, THE PCP SAID IT WAS "SUPREMELY HAPPY" AT NEW TURN OF EVENTS.

4. ONLY DISSIDENT VOICE WAS FROM RIGHT WING MOVIMENTO FEDERALISTA PORTUGUES WHICH TESTILY REMINDED GOP THAT IN ITS FIRST COMMUNIQUE TO NATION AFTER APRIL 25 IT HAD GUARANTEED THAT PORTUGAL WOULD SURVIVE AS A SOVEREIGN AND PLURICONTINENTAL NATION. WHERE, IT ASKED, WAS THE FRANK AND OPEN PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE OVERSEAS CALLED FOR IN THE MFA PROGRAM? THE DECISION TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO THE OVERSEAS IN ITS VIEW IS NOT THE RESULT OF SUCH A DEBATE. IT SAID FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES OPENS A "DANGEROUS PRECEDENT" FOR THE FUTURE, AND IT ASKED GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY EXACTLY WHAT THE LAWS ARE UNDER WHICH PEOPLE NOW LIVING.

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5. DECISION TOUTED IN MORNING PAPERS AS A GREAT HISTORICAL EVENT. DIARIO DE NOTICIAS SAID IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL THAT PORTUGAL CAN BE PROUD THAT SHE HAS ACCOMPLISHED HER CENTURIES-OLD MISSION OF CREATING "NEW WORLDS" IN AFRICA. THESE PORTUGUESE CREATIONS HAVE EVOLVED INTO SOVEREIGN ADULTHOOD AND ARE NOW READY FOR FREEDOM. PORTUGAL, IT CAUTIONS, HAS NOT ABANDONED THESE NATIONS AND EXPECTS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THEM IN THE FUTURE. OTHER MORNING PAPER, O SECULO, SIMILARLY APPLAUDS SPINOLA AND CALLS JULY 27 AN HISTORICAL DATE IN WORLD HISTORY.

6. CARTOON ON FRONT PAGE OF ONE MORNING PAPER PERHAPS BEST SUMS UP FEELINGS OF MANY PORTUGUESE. ONE-HALF OF

CARTOON SHOWS A PROSTRATE PORTUGAL (IN FIGURE OF OLD MAN) BLOATED WITH THE THREE AFRICAN COLONIES. RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF CARTOON REPRESENTS POST-COUP PORTUGAL IN FORM OF SPRY, REJUVENATED AND SLIM YOUNGSTER KICKING UP HIS HEELS AND FLEXING HIS MUSCLES. AVERAGE MAN ON STREET INTERVIEWED BY PORTUGUESE TELEVISION AFTER SPEECH SAID HE HAPPY THAT PORTUGAL NOW FREE OF COSTLY OBLIGATIONS TOWARD OVERSEAS WHICH HAVE COST IT SO MUCH IN TERMS OF LOST LIVES AND DELAYED DEVELOPMENT AT HOME. MANY LAMENTED HOWEVER THAT DECISION NOT MADE EARLIER. CONSENSUS SEEMS TO BE THAT NATION CAN AND SHOULD NOW GET ON WITH BUSINESS OF MOVING PORTUGAL OUT OF LAST PLACE IN ECONOMIC LINE UP OF EUROPEAN NATIONS.

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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CIEP-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-20 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0125

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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7. COMMENT: SPINOLA'S PERSONAL PRESTIGE, WHICH HAD SUNK SOMEWHAT AS RESULT OF THE RECENT GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS, HAS RISEN TO NEW HIGHS AS RESULT OF HIS SPEECH. BY REMOVING HIMSELF AND THE "FEDERALIST" BARRIER TO INDEPENDENCE HE HAS ASSURED HIMSELF A PLACE IN HISTORY AS A MAN WHO MADE A SELFLESS DECISION WORTHY OF A TRUE STATESMAN.

8. REPRESENTING AS IT DOES SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATION OF HIS PUBLICLY-PRONOUNCED OVERSEAS POLICY, SPEECH WILL BE SEEN BY MANY AS A CLEAR DEFEAT FOR SPINOLA. HOWEVER, SPINOLA HAS SHOWN THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER AN AMAZING ABILITY TO LEARN FROM OTHERS, JUDGE THE MOOD OF THE PEOPLE AND ADAPT HIS POLICIES ACCORDINGLY. IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT HE SENSED THAT HIS FEDERALIST SOLUTION AND REQUIREMENT FOR A REFERENDUM, HOWEVER DEFENSIBLE IN THEORY, WERE NOT VIABLE IN THE FACE OF CHANGING INTERNATIONAL REALITIES AND THE INTERNAL FORCES IN THE COUNTRY. THIS JUDGMENT, COUPLED WITH PRESSURE FROM THE MFA AND FROM PARTIES REPRESENTED IN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, PROBABLY AT ROOT OF HIS DECISION TO RECOGNIZE

RIGHT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR OVERSEAS. WHILE HE CLEARLY
ACTED UNDER PRESSURE, HE HAS REGATHERED THE INITIATIVE
INTO HIS OWN HANDS. SPEECH HAS BUILT UP SPINOLA'S
IMAGE AS SELFLESS STATESMAN ABLE TO TAKE HARD DECISIONS
IN NATIONAL INTEREST. IN THIS SENSE THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE
TO SEE SPINOLA ELECTED PRESIDENT NEXT YEAR (AND THIS
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APPARENTLY INCLUDES SPINOLA HIMSELF) HAVE ADDED CAMPAIGN
MATERIAL.
POST

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